Quality of Ganga water

3297 SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have devised any method according to which improvement in the quality of Ganga water can be judged periodically; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quality of water in Indian rivers is classified into various categories according to the designated best use such as for drinking water supply after chlorination, bathing, drinking water supply after full treatment, propagation of aquatic life etc. The parameters of water quality corresponding to these uses are generally expressed in terms of Dissolved Oxygen, Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand and the presence of coliform.

Water quality in the Ganga river is monitored according to Oxygen as well as other parameters in 27 locations by the Central Board for the Prevention & Control of Water Pollution. The samples are collected and analysed once every month. In addition, water quality in the four towns of Hardward-Rishikesh, Kanpur, Allahabd and Varanasi are being monitored through the U.P. State Pollution Control Board at a frequency of three times a month. In regard to the presence of pesticides and heavy metals the samples obtained by the Central Board for the Prevention & Control of Water Pollution are analysed by the Indian Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow which is one of the CSIR laboratories.

Data obtained from these monitoring schemes are analysed periodically to establish a data base as well as projecting future trends in water quality. The current status in water quality is expressed in terms of percentage and frequency of violation of the water quality standards corresponding to the designated best use.

Loss of water due to evaporation

3298 SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to use chemical retarders and other methods for slowing down evaporation losses of water;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have made any assessment of loss of water due to evaporation; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) Chemical retardants are being tried for reducing evaporation losses from surface of small and medium reservoirs in some States like Gujarat, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh The method may be generally suitable for application in small and medium storages in arid and semi-arid zones.

(c) and (d) Estimates of such losses are not maintained. It is reported that evaporation losses from storages may vary between 20 to 40% depending upon climatological conditions, waterspread, etc.

Counter trade details by private sector

3299. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to permit private sector trading houses in counter-trade deals; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Private Sector Trading Houses are free to enter into counter-trade details provided imports and exports are within the provisions of the prevalent Import & Export Policy.

Development of small water-sheds

3300. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the development of small water-sheds is crucial in restoring ecological balance and also has a large employment potential; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to give top priority to water resource development sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With the prevailing drought conditions in the country the development of water resources and supply of drinking water is receiving top priority.

Rise in pollution level in Ganga at Rishikesh

3301. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that of late pollution levels in the Ganga at Rishikesh has gone up; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The water quality parameters of Ganga at Rishikesh are being monitored regularly. The data collected during the recent months do not indicate any rising trend of pollution.

(b) For overall pollution abtement in the river at Rishikesh, two schemes at a cost of Rs. 111.83 lakhs have been taken up. One scheme at a cost of Rs. 98.35 lakhs has been completed Under this scheme about 6 million litres of waste water per day flowing into the river have been diverted to treatment locations by intercepting two major drains and by renovating pumping stations. The oxidation pond and pumping station at Lakkarghat for treatment of sewage has been renovated. The State Govt. is also preparing a scheme for treatment facility at Swargashram. Two units of public toilet complexes are under construction in Rishikesh.

Expenditure incurred on Nagarjun Sagar project

3302. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total expenditure incurred so far on the Nagarjun Sagar Project in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) what is the amount so far provided by the Central Government for this Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) About Rs 583 crores upto March, 1987.

(b) A loan assistance of about Rs. 140 crores was sanctioned for Nagarjun Sagar Project.